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ANNEXTION PACKAGE PASSES SENATE

Senator Birkholz announces new procedures for boundary changes

Thursday, June 5, 2003-Sen. Patricia Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township, today announced the passage of Senate Bills 379 – 384, which create a more democratic annexation and detachment process in boundary changes.

“Annexation can be an important tool for a city’s or a village’s development, but it can also profoundly limit the short- and long-term planning abilities of communities whose land is vulnerable to being annexed,” Birkholz said. “This legislation establishes a more democratic process and provides in most cases a vote of the citizens.”

The annexation package also requires notification of public meetings on boundary changes and allows townships and municipalities negotiating an annexation proposal to file a claim in the circuit court asserting the other party failed to negotiate in good faith.

“The process of annexing territory often has lead to difficult relations between neighboring communities. I’m pleased the Senate has passed legislation that will balance the interest of developers, cities, villages, and townships,” said Birkholz.